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Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3730th Meeting

Friday, 10 January 1997, 6.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Berrocal Soto
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Gnehm

Agenda

Central America: efforts towards peace

Report of the Secretary-General (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2)

97-85011 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 6.35 p.m.

Expression of welcome to the new members of the Security Council and of thanks to the outgoing members of the Security Council

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council to be held this year, I should like to welcome the new members of the Council: Costa Rica, Kenya, Portugal, Sweden and Japan. We all look forward with confidence to their participation in the work of the Council, which will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's enormous responsibilities as it tackles so many challenges.

I should also like to express the Council's gratitude to the outgoing members for their important contributions to the Council's work. The representatives of Botswana, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia and Italy all, in an excellent manner, contributed their talents to the conduct of the business of the Council.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: I should also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to my predecessor, Ambassador Francesco Paolo Fulci, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, for the service he rendered as President of the Council for the month of December 1996. I am sure I speak for all the members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Fulci for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Central America: efforts towards peace

Report of the Secretary-General (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Venezuela, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) took a seat at the Council table; Ms. Ramírez (Argentina), Mr. Fowler (Canada), Mr. Londoño-Paredes (Colombia), Mr. Tello (Mexico), Mr. Biegman (Netherlands), Mr. Aass (Norway), Mr. Laclaustra (Spain) and Mr. De Rojas (Venezuela), took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Central America: efforts towards peace, documents S/1996/1045 and Addenda 1 and 2.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/18, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Members of the Council have received photocopies of a letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of a letter of the same date from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala addressed to the President of the Security Council, which will be issued as document S/1997/23.

The first speaker on my list is the representative of Guatemala, on whom I now call.

Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) (*interpretation from Spanish*): With the signing of the final agreement last 29 December, Guatemala has successfully concluded a process of peace negotiations which merely requires verification by means of a peacekeeping force, as requested by the Secretary-General in his reports of 17 and 30 December 1996.

Over the past several years, the international community has followed with great interest and supported the Guatemalan process, and it has expressed its great appreciation at the signing of the peace agreement. Now it awaits eagerly the Council's decision to send a peacekeeping mission which will allow the Guatemalan people to consolidate the peace process and reunite the nation. It will also aid in the fulfilment of the agreements entered into as regards the ceasefire and the disarmament and demobilization of the combatants.

The process of peace negotiations in Guatemala was complex and difficult, requiring enormous internal and external efforts, and it will lead not only to reconciliation and the establishment of peaceful coexistence, but also to significant changes in the country. The United Nations has supported this process in a resolute and consistent fashion, and its involvement has been crucial and profound. The General Assembly has given firm support during the past few years which these negotiation have taken. It has authorized the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). The Secretariat has had central responsibility in conducting intelligent and creative mediation. And Guatemala has also had the support of the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process which has promoted this broad effort for the United Nations. To all of them, on behalf of the people and of the Government of Guatemala, we reiterate our appreciation and gratitude.

All of this valuable effort has a logical extension. After the conclusion of the negotiations and the signing of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, we come to the stage of application and implementation. Toward this end there is a need for international verification of the measures related to the agreement on the ceasefire through the authorization of a military component, which has been proposed by the Secretary-General upon the request of the parties, and on which the Security Council must take a decision.

We fully believe that the majority of Security Council members will agree to authorize this mission. And of course we know full well that all the members of the Council have a proper understanding of their responsibilities in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The case that you have before you is clear. It consists simply in facilitating the verification of an agreement between the parties which have been in conflict. We therefore trust that the distinguished members of the Council will favourably resolve the request that has been put before them by the Secretary-General.

No one is unaware of the problem of a bilateral nature which has been raised by one of the permanent members of the Council in connection with this subject. In spite of how unusual this situation is, Guatemala has seen fit to conduct consultations with the delegation of that country on certain issues of a bilateral nature with the best of intentions and with the flexibility required to overcome the existing difficulty. In this connection I wish to emphasize my Government's willingness to contribute constructively to friendly relations among countries, and I would like to give assurances that it has never been our intention to interfere in the internal affairs of any other State. I also wish to reiterate that our international conduct is guided by respect for the principles contained in the United Nations Charter as regards refraining from taking actions that could affect the territorial integrity or political independence of other States.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, in addition to the important bilateral consultations in which there have been constructive exchanges and substantial advances, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country has sent a letter to the President of the Council explaining the scope of these consultations. All of this represents palpable evidence of the goodwill of my Government and of its great desire to do its part to resolve this situation and to attain a favourable decision from the Council.

We believe that it must be borne in mind that the members of the Council, in fulfilment of their responsibilities in accordance with the Charter, must not allow bilateral issues unrelated to matters under their consideration to hinder their decisions. The fulfilment of the obligations of members of the Council requires prudence, equanimity and a sense of justice.

May I observe that abuse of the status of a permanent member through misuse of the veto is unacceptable. If this were to occur, the General Assembly would have to take note of it.

This matter is in the Council's hands. It means giving an opportunity to a country that has achieved peace following many sacrifices. The international community and all the Guatemalan people await your decision, which we hope will be favourable.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Colombia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make a statement.

Mr. Londoño-Paredes (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I first of all congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council at this important stage. We wish you every success. We know you, and we are certain that as you have always done, you will be guiding deliberations in this important organ of the United Nations in a brilliant and most constructive way.

It is very gratifying for my delegation to speak in the discussion of this item, at a historic moment in the process of seeking and consolidating peace in Guatemala. The signing of the peace accords on 29 December 1996 is of enormous significance for the peoples of Central America and for an entire hemisphere that has had to face the terrible reality of armed confrontation.

Colombia has always maintained close bonds of friendship and cooperation with the countries of Central America, several of which are neighbours and bordering States with which we share the Caribbean Sea. During the complex period of the Central American conflict, our country, together with Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, formed the Contadora Group, and were later joined in our efforts by four other brotherly countries of Latin America. Three years of great and constant efforts prevented the conflict from spreading and sowed the seeds for bringing peace to the region.

We also actively participated in the peace process in El Salvador and acted as promoters of the first dialogue between the Government of that country and the leaders of the Frente Farabundo Martí guerillas. In a small town in the north of El Salvador, somewhere between the jungle and the mountains, we were witnesses to that historic first step. Later we became members of the Secretary-General's Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process. We are therefore proud to have contributed to the quest for peace and the consolidation of genuine democracy in that region, of which we feel we are a part.

With the signing of the Guatemala peace accords, not only is one of the most painful and long-standing confrontations on the continent being ended, but, with this closing of the chapter on the last of the Central American conflicts, it is clear that today, more than ever, violence is an outdated instrument of political struggle. Peace among the Guatemalan people is the result of an arduous process that was not free of vicissitudes, but which had the virtue of reflecting the feelings and determination of the people of Guatemala regarding peace as the only way to bring down the barriers that limit their economic and social development.

We believe that the negotiation process has been rigorous with regard to substantive issues and pragmatic with regard to operational aspects, and has the necessary legitimacy to contribute to the building of a new Guatemala. That is why we want to express our appreciation and praise to the Government of our sister Republic of Guatemala, and to the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) for their brave and sincere approach, as well as to the United Nations for the intelligent and tireless mediation work that it carried out.

Now is the time for a delicate and complex process of step-by-step demobilization of the guerilla forces and verification of the peace accords. We know that the entire international community, and, of course, members of the Security Council, will do all in their power to achieve the desired result, which will also be a great achievement for the United Nations, as it participates in one of the major endeavours that the world expects of it following the end of the cold war.

We are convinced that this process will help consolidate democracy and promote and strengthen relations between Guatemala and all the States Members of the United Nations.

The President: I thank the representative of Colombia for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Venezuela. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. De Rojas (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): First, I should like to associate Venezuela with the congratulations extended to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. We wish you every success in the discharge of this very important responsibility.

Venezuela asked to address the Council on this occasion in order to express complete support for the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA),

as contained in document S/1996/1045 and addenda 1 and 2, as well as for the draft resolution before the Security Council, contained in document S/1997/18. Venezuela is a member of the Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process, as well as a contributor to MINUGUA, and as such, as members are aware, is, together with the other members of the Group of Friends, a sponsor of the draft resolution.

We support the deployment of a small United Nations military component, attached to MINUGUA, as requested by the Secretary-General in his report. We are convinced that this is the best way of achieving a firm and lasting peace in accordance with the agreements signed in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996 by the representatives of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), in which both parties request the dispatch of a military mission by the United Nations in order to verify the implementation of the ceasefire agreements that were achieved during the process.

In this respect, Venezuela believes that it is the responsibility of the international community to give all the support that is necessary for the full implementation of the agreements, so that the Guatemalan people can begin to travel down the road to lasting peace and stable democracy, for the benefit of all the citizens of Guatemala and of our Latin American region. We also note the great importance of the letter from the Government of Guatemala, to which reference has been made here, and which is contained in document S/1997/23. For all of these reasons we hope that the draft resolution will be given the full support that it deserves from all the members of this Council.

In conclusion we would like, through you, Mr. President, to convey to the representatives of our sister Republic of Guatemala, our feelings of fraternal solidarity and steadfast support at this very important moment in its history. We assure them that we will continue to be with them at this time, and at all times in the future.

The President: I thank the representative of Venezuela for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the Netherlands. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Biegman (Netherlands): Offering the customary congratulations on your presidency, Sir, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following associated countries have aligned themselves with this intervention: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

The Union warmly welcomed the signing in Guatemala City on 29 December of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace.

That signing was a historic step in Guatemala's history, bringing an end to the longest-running conflict in the region, which had brought immense pain and suffering to the Guatemalan people. It is at the same time the culmination of the peace process in Central America.

The European Union has for a long time taken an active interest in the Central American peace process, in particular through the San José dialogue, and reiterates its readiness to support the Guatemalan people in implementing the peace agreements.

We wish to congratulate the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). Their common determination and the persistent efforts of the United Nations, in particular of United Nations Moderator Jean Arnault, assisted by the Group of Friends, have laid the basis for the far-reaching agreements signed in Mexico, Oslo, Stockholm and Madrid that entered into force on the occasion of the signing ceremony in Guatemala City.

The implementation of the Agreement needs the full cooperation of the parties. We call upon them to fulfil in good faith the commitments they have entered into, bearing in mind that it is their primary responsibility to consolidate the peace and to prevent any resurgence of violence. The citizens of Guatemala deserve at last to live in peace.

Guatemala now faces the challenge of building a democratic society based on the rule of law, open to the equal participation of all Guatemalan citizens and with full respect for human rights.

The verification of the peace accords has been entrusted by both parties to the United Nations. The European Union therefore agrees with the report of the Secretary-General of 17 December 1996, which states that the verification will require the deployment of United Nations military observers and that, in accordance with the established practice of the United Nations, such deployment will require the authorization of the Security Council, which has consistently supported the peace

process in Central America since it first commended the efforts of the Contadora countries in resolution 530 (1983).

We therefore hope that the draft resolution before the Council today can be adopted by consensus, as a testimony of the continued determination of the whole international community to support the peace process in Guatemala.

We support the Secretary-General's recommendation for the attachment of a group of 155 military observers to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

At the same time, we subscribe to the call contained in the draft resolution for both parties to honour their mutual commitments and to cooperate fully with the verification of the ceasefire agreement and all the resulting obligations.

The President: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Norway, on whom I now call.

Mr. Aass (Norway): Allow me to associate Norway with the words of congratulation extended to you, Sir, upon your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. We wish you every success in the execution of this important mission.

Since the late 1980s there has been a positive trend in Latin America towards democratization and peaceful resolution of conflicts. A milestone in this regard was the signing on 29 December last year of a final peace Agreement in Guatemala, which put an end to an internal armed conflict that had been ravaging the country for 36 years, causing the death of 150,000 people and displacing a million men, women and children.

The peace Agreement came as a result of arduous negotiations between the Guatemalan Government and the guerrilla movement, the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The negotiations which started with an accord in Oslo, in March 1990, establishing the format for formal talks. The perseverance and pragmatism shown by the negotiating parties bode well for the handling of the important challenges with respect to the social, economic and reconciliation issues which now confront the Guatemalans.

Guatemala is a poor country in a purely economic sense, but rich in history, traditions, culture and ethnic diversity. A majority of the population is of indigenous origin, and they have paid a heavy price in terms of social injustice and the sufferings of war. The Guatemalan people deserves a better tomorrow, and the peace agreement represents a historic opportunity in that respect.

The international community and the United Nations have played an essential role in the Guatemalan peace process. The patient and constructive mediation by the United Nations since 1994, coupled with the constructive engagement and encouragement of the Group of Friends, contributed in a significant way to the peaceful outcome of the conflict. Now the weapons have been silenced. However, peace is not merely the absence of war. There cannot be peace in Guatemala without development, education, tolerance and equal opportunities. Today the Guatemalans are eager to construct a better Guatemala. To assure a smooth transition to the new phase of reconstruction and reconciliation, Guatemala is, however, still in need of some help from its many friends. Some of this will be assistance provided by donor countries and international institutions. But to assist the Guatemalans in the process of beating swords into ploughshares, the Secretary-General has recommended the attachment to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) of a group of 155 military observers and the requisite medical personnel.

Norway, as a member of the Group of Friends, has co-sponsored the draft resolution authorizing military observers in Guatemala. The reintegration of the URNG into civilian life is a crucial element of the peace process. Considering the heavy toll which has been exacted from its people throughout the armed conflict, it is our hope that no extraneous issue will be allowed to impede the endeavours to assure Guatemala a better future. In this respect, the members of the Security Council, and its permanent members in particular, bear a very special responsibility. My Government therefore urges the Security Council to adopt the present draft resolution.

If the international community is prepared to accompany Guatemala a bit further on the road to peace and normalization, the Guatemalan experience may become a model of constructive and effective international solidarity.

There is much at stake in the vote today. It is in the hands of the Security Council to give peace a chance in Guatemala.

The President: I thank the representative of Norway for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Mexico, on whom I now call.

Mr. Tello (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mexico wishes to express its gratification and joy at the signing last 29 December of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The signing of this Agreement is rightly a source of pride for the people of Guatemala. This is a time of joy and hope for millions of Guatemalans: Men and women of all social classes, ethnic groups and creeds whose shared objective is a harmonious and peaceful coexistence.

The people and the Government of Mexico cannot fail to express their greatest satisfaction at this historic moment for the Guatemalan people. Guatemala and Mexico are united by a past that gives them a shared frame of reference. We share history, geography, culture, traditions, languages and character. More than bordering countries, we are fraternal countries with converging hopes and aspirations, as we endeavour to be two modern and dynamic nations on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

The Government of Mexico wishes once again to pay tribute to the Government of Guatemala, led by President Alvaro Arzú, for its historic conviction that the only course for its people is that of harmony and peace. We also commend those who fought to build a society of freedom, justice and democracy. We sincerely congratulate the Government and the URNG for their dedication and their efforts to place above confrontation the objective of using dialogue and reason as the most valuable means to resolve disputes.

In the final analysis, this success belongs to Guatemalan society as a whole, which left behind doubts, fears and distrust and decided with courage and determination to set out on the road of solidarity and peace.

I also wish to pay tribute to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who, with the vision of a statesman, tirelessly promoted the peace process in Guatemala. The Secretary-General showed a sensitivity characteristic only of the great internationalists. We also owe a debt of gratitude to those who have given to this process their dedication and personal conviction. I refer in particular to Mr. Jean Arnault, and also to the team of the Guatemala Unit, who at all times were able to imbue the peace process with confidence and optimism.

The draft resolution before the Security Council, contained in document S/1997/18, is not — I repeat, is not — the solution or the definitive element of peace in Guatemala. That was provided by a decision already taken by Guatemalan society. The draft resolution signifies only the recognition by the international community that the United Nations has a role to play in building an order — if not a new one, at least a different one — within the society of that country.

As is evident, the draft resolution is neither very ambitious nor very costly. It is a small expression of the solidarity the Guatemalan people needs in order to launch from a firm, secure and reliable base this new stage in its history as a free, independent and democratic nation.

Mexico appeals sincerely and deeply to all Security Council members to adopt this draft resolution. The Council would thus once again show its determination to discharge fully the primary responsibility that we have conferred upon it for the maintenance of international peace and security. Peace in Guatemala is not a regional issue. It is a matter that involves all Members of the United Nations.

It is in this spirit and this context that the Government of Mexico hopes that this draft resolution will be adopted unanimously in order to reflect the firm support of the international community for the efforts that ended the last conflict spilling blood on the American continent.

I cannot conclude without sincerely congratulating you, Sir, on the recent election of your country as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, as well as on your assumption of the presidency during the first month of your term. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Italy, who discharged the responsibilities of President with great skill in the month of December, at a particularly delicate time for our Organization.

The President: I thank the representative of Mexico for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Spain, on whom I now call.

Mr. Laclaustra (Spain)(*interpretation from Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. I also wish to associate my delegation fully with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

On 29 December 1996 the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) signed the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, bringing an end to a brutal conflict and opening a new page in the history of Guatemala. On that date the full set of peace agreements entered into force, having been concluded following a negotiation process in which the parties, assisted by the valuable moderation of the United Nations and the support of the Group of Friends, demonstrated their firm commitment to peace.

The time has now come to implement the agreements reached and to apply the will of the parties and the wish of the entire people of Guatemala to lay the foundations for a firm and lasting peace, which must be ensured through the continued support of the international community, and of the United Nations in particular.

The agreement on the definitive ceasefire, signed in Oslo, is one of the pillars that will ensure the building of peace in Guatemala through the verification of the ceasefire, the separation of forces, disarmament and the demobilization of the URNG combatants. The mechanism for the verification of this agreement and for the other agreements signed between the parties has been entrusted to the United Nations.

In his report of 17 December 1996 and its addenda of 23 and 30 December, the Secretary-General underscores the need to deploy United Nations military personnel through the authorization of the Security Council of an additional military component of 155 personnel for a period of three months for the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

The draft resolution before the Security Council, sponsored by Spain together with the other members of the Group of Friends, will authorize that deployment and will make it possible for the achievements of the negotiating process between the parties to begin to have concrete results on the ground.

The Security Council, with the decision that it is preparing to adopt today, must once again exercise the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security conferred upon its members by the United Nations Charter. In this way, the presence of United Nations military observers in Guatemala will make it possible to verify the implementation of the agreement on the definitive ceasefire and for Central America to become a conflict-free region of true peace, freedom and democracy.

My delegation wishes to stress Spain's readiness to participate in the exercise of this collective responsibility by making an important contribution of its own troops to this military component of MINUGUA.

The firm commitment to the peace process that my country has shared with the other members of the Group of Friends remains fully intact in this new and hopeful stage of reconciliation, reconstruction and development that is beginning in a climate of peace, freedom and democracy for the people of Guatemala. The participation of the President of the Spanish Government, José María Aznar, in the signature ceremony of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, and the bilateral cooperation that my authorities have decided to increase considerably in pursuit of our assistance to Guatemala, are solid evidence of that commitment.

I wish to conclude by recalling that Madrid was host to the signing, on 12 December 1996, of one of the important agreements between the parties: that on the basis for the reintegration of URNG into the political life of the country. On that occasion, my country also sponsored a forum for reflection on reinsertion and demobilization in Guatemala, which made it possible to put forward ideas and proposals to ensure that the international community was in a position to meet the requirements of the parties and the immediate needs for the implementation of the peace accords in that crucial aspect.

The President: I thank the representative of Spain for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Argentina. I invite her to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Mrs. Ramirez (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your election and to wish you, on behalf of my delegation, every success in your work, which we are convinced will be characterized by efficiency and transparency.

We also congratulate the Permanent Representative of Italy for his outstanding and well-appreciated work in December and for all the efforts made by his delegation.

I wish to refer to the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace that was signed at Guatemala City on 29 December 1996 between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), ending a conflict that for decades affected an important country of Central America. We have no doubt that the Agreement will make it possible to reverse the political, institutional, economic and social consequences of the conflict.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Guatemalan peace Agreement will make it possible to consolidate and stabilize democracy in the region, laying the foundations for a society in which peace, freedom, the rule of law, respect for human rights, justice and sustained economic development will prevail.

All of this joint effort of the Guatemalan people, the political leadership involved in the peace negotiations, the United Nations, the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the officials who have been in charge of this arduous task now makes it possible for the international community to express its gratification at the conclusion of this stage.

The process is not complete, however, since there is a need to follow up the agreements reached. In this framework, the follow-up action of the United Nations is significant. Thus, the task of monitoring the ceasefire, separating the forces and disarming and demobilizing the URNG combatants are the challenges that lie ahead.

In order to meet these challenges successfully, we fully support the Secretary-General's proposal, formulated in his report of 17 December, for the establishment of a military component of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala. We believe that the proposals and plans of the Secretary-General for this mission are wise and that they are appropriately reflected in the draft resolution before us. The adoption of the draft resolution would show that the understandable difficulties and concerns had been overcome.

Argentina is a sponsor of the draft resolution because we fully support the Guatemalan efforts to achieve peace. We are prepared to continue to support these efforts through practical action. The presence of civilian police, which my Government has been sending since 1995, is evidence of our commitment to this cause.

The President: I thank the representative of Argentina for her kind words addressed to me and my predecessor.

The next speaker is the representative of Canada. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): Less than two weeks ago, the Foreign Minister of Canada, in company with the former Secretary-General and many other supporters of peace in Guatemala, witnessed the signature ceremonies in Guatemala of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace aimed at ending over 35 years of civil conflict in that country. We celebrate this achievement. We also recognize, as do the Guatemalan parties to the peace accords and the people of Guatemala, that there is much to be done — and to be done quickly — to effect a complete national reconciliation.

The fundamental issue today is how the international community can help the people of Guatemala inculcate a culture of peace in their society. After decades of conflict, mistrust and extreme insecurity, there is an urgent need to establish sustainable security in Guatemala, including human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, sustainable development and social equity. All of these are as important as the military aspects of the peace settlement.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada believes that we are now at the critical point where the peace-building measures envisaged in the Guatemala accords must be rapidly implemented if the momentum is not to be lost. We need to help put in place the conditions that will allow Guatemala to take charge of its own destiny and move forward with the important tasks of social, political and economic reconstruction it has set itself in the peace accords.

Among the immediate tasks to be taken up are the implementation of the ceasefire, the separation of forces and the disarmament and demobilization of combatants of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The successful reintegration of the former combatants into civilian life is perhaps the first and most essential act of peace-building, because until this happens there can be no lasting peace and because these former rebels must secure a stake in building the new Guatemala.

In order to move forward with this work, we are pleased that the Security Council is considering a draft resolution which provides for a mandate for a military component to be added to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Canada enthusiastically supports this initiative and stands ready to contribute military observers to this United Nations Mission.

Canada recognizes the historic achievement of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in the peace accords. This is the last stage in the Central American peace process, which Canada has supported in many direct and material ways. The parties and the people of Guatemala can remain assured that Canada will continue to support them actively as they move forward to implement the peace settlement.

I would also like to pay tribute at this time to the work both of United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and of the United Nations Moderator of the Peace Talks, Jean Arnault, which has been so essential to the successful conclusion of the peace accords.

The President: It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Sir John Weston (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom warmly welcomes the signing of the final peace Agreement between the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996. The Agreement signals the end of 36 years of conflict and marks the culmination of a long and complex process of negotiation. We pay tribute to both parties, who have demonstrated that when the political will exists, even the most intractable conflicts can be resolved. We also commend the role of the United Nations mediation team, who have worked tirelessly in pursuit of this achievement.

The foundations for a lasting peace in Guatemala have been laid. A period of reconciliation and reconstruction is now necessary to insure a lasting peace for that country. Implementation of the Agreement will not be easy. It is essential that, at this crucial juncture, the international community and this Council, in particular, should demonstrate the commitment to support the process of reconciliation in Guatemala.

The United Kingdom, along with — as I understand it — all other members of the Council, agree with the Secretary-General that a rapid deployment of United Nations military observers is necessary in order to verify the ceasefire. The observer group has a clear mandate and exit strategy, as well as the consent of the parties. Authorization of such a deployment is clearly the responsibility of this Council. That is why, as a sponsor of the draft resolution before us, the United Kingdom will vote in favour of its adoption, and we strongly hope that it will in fact be adopted, on the objective grounds that the proposed deployment is necessary and desirable. We should all measure up to our Security Council responsibilities over this.

We look to both parties to the Agreement fully to implement their commitments, and to give the United Nations full cooperation in the verification of the ceasefire and demobilization of combatants.

The United Kingdom has long been a firm supporter of the peace process in Central America. We have participated actively in the San José dialogue between the European Union and Central American States. We will continue to work to ensure an effective European Union contribution to the consolidation of democracy in Guatemala. Together with other members of the Security Council, we pledge our full support to the long-suffering people of Guatemala. They have put their past behind them; let us do everything possible to ensure that they now enjoy a peaceful and prosperous future.

Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) (*interpretation from French*): Portugal has for centuries had very strong ties to Central America. It is therefore with particular satisfaction that my country welcomed the signing in Guatemala City on 29 December of the final peace Agreement between the representatives of the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca. We believe that peace, national reconciliation and economic development are now within the grasp of the Guatemalan people.

This final Agreement, in conjunction with the agreements signed in Madrid, Mexico, Oslo and Stockholm, will lead to the end of the domestic conflict in Guatemala, which has been the longest in Central America.

The consequences of this Agreement are not limited to Guatemala. They have a particular meaning in the context of the overall process underway in Central America, and they can become an important contribution to the cause of peace, democracy, stability and economic development in the region.

In recent years, the United Nations has played a very important role in Guatemala. I would also like to pay tribute today to the patient and constructive efforts of the Secretary-General, the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process, the United Nations system as a whole, and to all other international agencies which have supported and continue to support the peace process.

It is our hope that democracy and respect for human rights will continue to be consolidated in Guatemala. Portugal is gratified by these developments and also wishes to convey its special thanks to the men and women whom make up the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Since November 1994, when the Mission was established as part of the framework of the peace negotiations, they have verified the respect for the overall Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala which was signed by the parties, as well as some aspects of the agreement on the identity and rights of indigenous peoples, which is of fundamental importance.

The presence of MINUGUA was essential in putting in place a peace process whose purpose was to put an end to a conflict that had beset the people of Guatemala for the past 35 years. MINUGUA has played an indispensable and exemplary role in the restoration of law and order and respect for human rights in this country. We hope that henceforth all the national minorities will be able to participate fully in building a free and democratic society in Guatemala where social justice becomes a reality.

Portugal feels that the international community has the duty to respond positively to the requests of the two Guatemalan parties, by providing adequate means to verify the ceasefire, the separation of forces and the disarmament and demobilization of the forces of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca. It is therefore a matter of helping and encouraging the parties to respect their commitments under the agreements they have signed.

The adoption of the draft resolution before us, which Portugal has co-sponsored, would be an essential contribution to peace and to national reconciliation and would be a follow-on to the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General.

One cannot overestimate the primary responsibility and the fundamental role which either the Government or the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca must continue to discharge in order to honour the mutual commitments they made to pursue the long-term consolidation of peace, democracy and stability in the country.

Portugal firmly believes that the peace process in Guatemala is an example to be followed by peoples and countries in similar situations throughout the world. We are certain that the two parties and the people of Guatemala will both be up to this challenge.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*interpretation from French*): The signing of the peace Agreement in Guatemala on 29 December will go down in the history of Central America. The conflict in Guatemala, the oldest in the area, had been going on for more than 40 years. The settlement of the conflict is the culmination of a process that began in Esquipulas in 1987. That has made it possible to arrive at a settlement of the conflicts in the other countries of the region, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The United Nations has played a central role in this process. The United Nations assumed this role successfully in Guatemala through the negotiation of various agreements which constituted the framework for peace.

Particularly sincere tribute is due to the efforts of the Secretary-General. I shall also mention, as was done

earlier by the Ambassador of Mexico, the special contribution by the United Nations Moderator of the Peace Talks, Mr. Jean Arnault.

It is natural that the Guatemalan parties turned to the United Nations to ask it to supervise the implementation of these agreements. Obviously, if we wish to express congratulations and good wishes, it is first and foremost to the people of Guatemala that we should address ourselves. The United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) has already been entrusted by the General Assembly with supervising those aspects of these agreements which relate to human rights. With regard to the military aspects, the Secretary-General has proposed to the Security Council the creation of an observer unit attached to MINUGUA with a mandate of three months.

No one can doubt — as has been pointed out and stressed — that this proposal is in keeping with the United Nations mission and with the competence of the Security Council and the responsibilities of its members. This is why France has given its support to this proposal. It will thus vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Council, which in principle enjoys the broadest support.

Mr. Park (Republic of Korea): My Government warmly welcomes the signing of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace between the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996. We are pleased that the longest and most destructive armed conflict in Central America — along with the tremendous suffering it inflicted on the people of Guatemala — has finally come to a peaceful conclusion. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of Guatemala on this watershed event in their country's history.

We commend the parties concerned for their firm commitment to peace and the spirit of compromise, without which the successful conclusion of the negotiations could not have been achieved. We also wish to recognize the Secretary-General, the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process and the United Nations system as a whole for the invaluable assistance they rendered to the parties concerned in their search for firm and lasting peace.

The entire Central American region can take pride in this remarkable achievement. With the end of conflict in Guatemala, the region is peaceful for the first time in nearly three decades and is free to continue peaceful progress towards democracy and development.

We believe the peace process in Guatemala has demonstrated that, even in the wake of severe civil conflict, peace and democracy are not unattainable goals so long as the parties concerned exhibit the necessary political will to make peace, and are supported in their efforts by their regional neighbours, the United Nations and the international community as a whole. The role of the United Nations in the peace process has been particularly noteworthy. As elsewhere in Central America, throughout the conflict in Guatemala the United Nations has played an indispensable role in promoting peace by making available its good offices and by establishing in 1994 the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Recently, in anticipation of the historic conclusion of the final peace agreement, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of MINUGUA until 31 March 1997 as a clear expression of the international community's continued political support for the peace process in Guatemala.

Notwithstanding the ground-breaking achievements made thus far, Guatemala's journey to lasting and long-term peace and stability is not yet over and is unlikely to become any less arduous. The most important task in the coming days must be to ensure the implementation of all the agreements which the parties have freely entered into. Needless to say, peace and reconciliation agreed to on paper can only be translated into reality if both parties comply fully with their obligations under the peace agreements.

With the signing of the final peace agreement last December, the overall package of peace accords is now in full force. In light of the peace package's comprehensive nature, its implementation will present a major challenge, not only to the parties themselves but also to the United Nations and the international community as a whole. While we encourage both the Government of Guatemala and the URNG to use the momentum now created to undertake all necessary measures to fully implement the peace package, we believe that the United Nations should also help consolidate the historic progress made towards a lasting peace in Guatemala.

It has long been anticipated that verification of the military aspects of the peace agreement will require the

deployment of military observers. Given that the overall package of peace accords has entered into force and the request has been made by the parties for the deployment of the United Nations verification mission, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General to attach a group of military observers to the existing MINUGUA operation. We believe that the recommended dimensions of deployment would enable the effective fulfilment of the entrusted tasks, namely, ceasefire verification, separation of forces, and the disarmament and demobilization of URNG combatants.

My delegation will therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution on authorizing the attachment to MINUGUA of a group of 155 military observers and requisite medical personnel for a period of three months.

Mr. Wlosowicz (Poland): My delegation wholeheartedly welcomes the final agreement signed on 29 December 1996 between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and the fact that the two parties are united at long last in their willingness to secure peaceful and stable life for their country.

We congratulate yesterday's adversaries on their courage and farsightedness, but it is the people of Guatemala who should be congratulated in the first place. The end of the war and the commitment of the parties to implement their agreements will undoubtedly create an environment favourable to further democratization, economic recovery and the promotion of the rule of law.

I believe it would not be unfair to say that the international community in general and the United Nations in particular deserve to be commended for assisting the parties in their attempts to peacefully resolve the conflict and in setting up the framework within which the parties have agreed to cooperate. In this context my delegation highly appreciates the contribution made by the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

In the opinion of the Polish delegation, continued United Nations assistance is indispensable for the successful implementation of the peace agreements in Guatemala. It also, and perhaps above all, applies to the agreement on the definitive ceasefire signed at Oslo on 4 December 1996 and to the related verification measures. We believe that in light of previous international investments in the peace process in Guatemala, we cannot afford to fail to respond positively to the parties' request to entrust the United Nations team of military observers with the task of verification of the above-mentioned agreement.

Consequently, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution authorizing the attachment of the group of observers to MINUGUA, as recommended by the Secretary-General.

Finally, let me pay tribute to the members of the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process for the role they have played in preparing the draft resolution before us.

Mr. Osvald (Sweden): The signing of the peace Agreement in Guatemala on 29 December 1996 put an end to 36 years of bitter conflict. Guatemala will now finally have the opportunity to devote its energies to peaceful, long-term development, together with the rest of the Central American region. Since the 1970s, Sweden has worked in support of democracy and peace in Central America and has played an active part in developments leading to the historic peace Agreement in Guatemala. The Swedish Government was honoured to host the signing of the agreement on constitutional reforms and the electoral regime in Stockholm last December. Sweden has pledged substantial contributions in support of the important tasks of demobilization and the reintegration into society of former combatants. Sweden participates in the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Sweden is also a substantial contributor to MINUGUA's fund for institution-building.

The United Nations has played a crucial role in laying a foundation for peace in Guatemala through the efforts of MINUGUA, the Guatemala Unit of the Secretariat and, of course, the United Nations Moderator, Mr. Jean Arnault. The Group of Friends of Guatemala has also made important contributions in support of the peace process. The agreement on the definitive ceasefire expressly assigns the role of verifying the military aspects of the peace settlement to the United Nations. As proposed by the Secretary-General, this task should be carried out by the attachment to MINUGUA of a group of military observers and some medical personnel. It is in keeping with United Nations practice that this military component should be authorized under a Security Council mandate. This is a case in which the Security Council is called upon to exercise its primary responsibility for the

maintenance of international peace and security. It is important that the draft resolution be adopted by the Council. It enjoys Sweden's full support.

The Guatemalan peace Agreement is multidimensional in character. It is a good example of how the practical application of a broader concept of security can create a basis for peaceful development. In addition to ceasefire and military provisions, the package of peace accords includes agreements on constitutional, social and economic issues, human rights and the identity and rights of indigenous peoples. It is appropriate that verification is entrusted to a multidimensional United Nations operation. The contributions of various parts of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will be of major importance in supporting implementation of the peace agreements. Coordination between all international organizations and agencies supporting the peace process is important.

Tribute should in particular be paid today to the Guatemalan parties themselves; they have carried the peace process forward and will carry responsibility for its success. The final success of the Guatemalan peace process will, of course, be measured through the implementation of the peace agreements in all their aspects — military and civilian. The decision before us today would enhance the contribution of the United Nations to assisting the parties in this endeavour.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The signing of the overall package of peace accords on Guatemala, the last of which was the final peace Agreement signed on 29 December 1996, represents an important milestone achieved by the United Nations in support of peace and stability in a country long torn by disputes and hostilities. Egypt again welcomes the signing of these agreements and congratulates the people of Guatemala on that achievement. The General Assembly has, so far, taken the major role in the process of bringing about peace in Guatemala by adopting many resolutions and decisions, the most important of which was General Assembly resolution 48/267, which called for the establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). That Mission successfully and ably supervised all the efforts leading to the completion of the agreements, which have been crowned with the final peace accord.

We must also thank the Secretary-General and his assistants for their efforts, which increased the chances of achieving agreement. Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) have now requested the United Nations to verify the implementation of all the agreements that, assisted by the United Nations, they negotiated together. The Security Council must make its contribution to increasing the chances of the implementation of these accords by adopting the draft resolution before the Council today.

The delegation of Egypt supports all the provisions of this draft resolution, and we will vote in favour of it. Egypt believes that any request by a State to the Security Council to supervise the implementation of a peace agreement negotiated with the assistance of the Organization deserves a positive response, particularly when such a response is consonant with the responsibility of the Security Council for maintaining international peace and security. While we appreciate the circumstances surrounding negotiations on the draft resolution, we hope that they will not prevent the Council from adopting the draft resolution and thereby shouldering its full responsibilities for assisting Guatemala to establish peace and stability in accordance with the peace agreement.

Mr. Mahugu (Kenya): We are encouraged by the fact that one of the longest wars fought in this region is finally coming to an end, and in this regard we welcome the signing of the December accord. We are particularly aware of the United Nations involvement in the peace process in Guatemala and of how useful and successful that involvement has been to date. The report of the Secretary-General on the current status of the peace process clearly sees a role for the United Nations in the verification of the peace accords negotiated with its assistance. Consequently, having considered the Secretary-General's recommendations, my delegation is of the view that increasing the strength of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) so as to fulfil the additional verification functions entrusted to it by the ceasefire agreement is crucial for its final implementation.

In this regard, my delegation has noted the Secretary-General's confirmation that the mechanism to oversee the preparation of assembly points to receive the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) combatants have been put in place. We have also

observed that paragraph 16 of the report reaffirms the desire of both parties to see the military aspects of the peace settlement urgently implemented. Accordingly, we strongly believe that the support of the international community for the efforts of Guatemalans in their quest for peace should be forthcoming and unequivocal and should not be seen to waver at this critical stage. Kenya will therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. Cabral (Guinea-Bissau) (*interpretation from French*): The agreement on the definitive ceasefire between the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), signed in Oslo on 4 December 1996, is the felicitous outcome of a long process marked by a series of peace agreements signed in Madrid, Mexico, Oslo Stockholm and, finally, in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996. This is certainly the beginning of a new era and the culmination of the joint efforts of the parties themselves, the countries of the region and the entire international community.

The United Nations has always followed the situation in Guatemala with special attention and sustained interest because it constituted, in everyone's view, a serious threat to international peace and security and, consequently, to the members of the international community as a whole.

It is important to recall that the General Assembly, in keeping with its obligations under the Charter, has always played a central role in promoting peace in Guatemala, and to this end it created the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

The Security Council, aware of the importance of peace in Central America for the rest of the world, paid tribute through its resolution 530 (1983) to the Contadora countries for their tireless efforts to facilitate the definitive return of peace and stability to the region. It is therefore quite appropriate, wise and also in keeping with its mandate that the Security Council, 14 years after the adoption of that resolution, decided to devote a debate to the new situation in Guatemala.

We are grateful for the various clear reports of the Secretary-General on this important issue, which have given us all the elements we need for a detailed understanding of the events and every reason to rejoice at the advent of the long-awaited peace in Guatemala. My delegation therefore welcomes with great satisfaction the Agreement the parties to the conflict have reached, which, by providing for a definitive ceasefire, opens up new prospects for peace, stability and development in a country whose population has suffered for too long the torments of a war that lasted for decades, 35 years to be more precise.

In the view of my delegation, it is only natural that the international community as a whole and the Security Council in particular should support unreservedly the peace process in Guatemala and should take all necessary measures to consolidate this process and promote the strict implementation of the ceasefire Agreement. This Agreement is an important stage in the building of a democratic society based on recognition of and respect for its pluralistic make-up and the rights of each citizen.

In recalling that the negotiations in Guatemala were both long and difficult, my delegation wishes to further highlight the responsibility that the Security Council has to respond favourably to the request made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to strengthening in the short term the United Nations Mission in Guatemala. The addition to MINUGUA of a group of military observers and requisite medical personnel would seem to us indispensable in order to ensure that peace in Guatemala become a reality. Indeed, there are prior conditions to be met and steps which the two parties must take decisively and without delay in order to make possible the overall implementation of the provisions provided for in the peace Agreement.

Therefore, now more than ever the actors in the political life of Guatemala, and more especially the people of Guatemala, need to feel the presence and also enjoy the concrete support of the United Nations so as to avert the vicissitudes that are involved in any settlement of any conflict of this type. In this way, they will be in a better position to respond to the need to work to overcome the numerous difficulties still remaining and any possible pitfalls. The people of Guatemala, who have never doubted the United Nations, deserve our unflagging support and our total solidarity.

My delegation hopes that all the conditions will be met so that the peace in Guatemala is a final and genuine peace, with a return to a normal and decent life for the entire population of this country. Yes, we hope that the ceasefire, once it enters into force, will be respected scrupulously by all the parties and that the separation of the forces will take place in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. The disarming of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) under the conditions provided for in the Agreement is necessary

because it is the keystone for establishing and strengthening trust between the parties.

With regard to the demobilization of the combatants, it seems essential to us to start thinking now — bearing in mind similar situations — about the conditions needed in order to help them to return to civilian life. This will only be possible with the effective aid of the international community.

While welcoming the important advance that brothers who were once enemies have made in Guatemala, my delegation recognizes and deeply appreciates the contribution of the countries of the region, which have expended much energy and demonstrated great savoir faire in finding, inspired by the cultural values and political concepts of their own countries, the ways and means of bringing about a definitive peace in Guatemala.

We, in this respect, wish to extend, here and now, this well-deserved tribute to the Governments of Norway, Spain and Sweden, the United Nations personnel and all those who, by their keen interest in the fate of the Guatemalan people, have made it possible to bring about the return of civil peace and to foster national reconciliation in the country.

Guinea-Bissau will support all efforts to preserve this peace so well deserved by the people of Guatemala.

Therefore, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution, the merit of which has been disputed by no one here and which should be adopted without opposition.

Mr. Larraín (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): We are at a crucial moment in the struggle for peace in Guatemala. Even at the risk of being repetitive, we cannot fail to say that we are witnessing the end of a civil war that has gone on for more than 35 years and has taken a toll of more than 100,000 victims.

The United Nations has played an important role in restoring normality for the citizens of that beloved brotherly country, and that should be a source of legitimate pride for this Organization.

The two parties to the Guatemalan conflict have requested one final step by the United Nations to consolidate this long and successful effort for peace, and we are confident that the Security Council will once again be responsive to this appeal and will authorize the sending of observers to verify the disarmament process and the demobilization of the forces in conflict.

This is one final effort by this Organization, and we are all aware that within the scope of peacekeeping operations that have been authorized by the Council, the operation now being requested is truly one of minimal dimensions. What has been requested is a group of 155 observers at an unusually low cost for this type of operation. Not only is the operation necessary, but this would also be a demonstration of political will by the Council and an expression of its interest in the Central American peace process.

We believe that the Security Council and all its members are aware of their responsibilities for preserving international peace and security and the importance of successfully completing the United Nations actions to bring peace to Guatemala and to the Central American isthmus as a whole. This has been and continues to be a matter of high priority for the entire hemisphere. Once peace is consolidated in this region, a region that once was a focus of concerns in this Council and is today becoming an area of great hope, there will remain a long difficult road to restore democratic coexistence and economic well-being. Our country, so far as its means permit, has been promoting programmes of cooperation in the Central American region and is prepared to continue doing so.

Millions of fellow human beings with a long history of suffering and deprivation are looking to this Council for support in their struggle for peace. We therefore make another sincere appeal to the members of the Council to assume their responsibilities towards these suffering people and support a draft resolution which constitutes the final stepping stone in the long process to consolidate in Central America an area of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Japan.

Speaking in my national capacity, I wish to state that Japan has on numerous occasions expressed its hope for the early conclusion of an agreement to bring an end to the decades-long conflict in Guatemala. Japan, thus, heartily welcomes the signing by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) on 29 December last year of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace. Both parties are to be commended for their courageous and determined

efforts in achieving this important and decisive first step towards peace and national reconciliation. I should like to add that this peace Agreement is truly of historic significance in that it puts an end to the last internal conflict in the region. Peoples throughout Central America can now look forward to building a peaceful and prosperous future.

The involvement of the United Nations played an important, indeed, I would say crucial role in bringing the two sides to the negotiating table and in achieving a successful outcome, reminding us once again of the valuable contribution this Organization continues to make to the maintenance of international peace and security. I should also like to express my admiration for the contributions made by the Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process in promoting the negotiations.

Japan strongly hopes that genuine and enduring peace will take firm hold in Guatemala, and would urge the Government of Guatemala and its people to join together in the effort to achieve national reconciliation and economic and social development. We believe that the deployment of a group of 155 military observers and medical personnel will be useful in solidifying the peace, and thus we strongly support the draft resolution authorizing that effort. My delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to the countries that participated in drafting such a concise and effective draft resolution. We hope that it will be adopted unanimously, thus demonstrating to the broader international community that the Security Council is indeed united in supporting the consolidation of peace in Guatemala and, in particular, the role that the United Nations has to play in that process.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to state that the Government of Japan has followed with great interest and concern the peace and democratization process in Guatemala. At the time of the presidential election in November 1995, for example, Japan sent an electoral observer and made a contribution of $100,000 to the Organization of American States for its election monitoring activities. It also sent two electoral observers for the presidential election held in January 1996. Japan intends to make further contributions, both political and financial, to the peace process in Guatemala, taking into account the specific needs of that country.

I now resume my functions as the President of the Security Council.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1997/18.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

China

The President: The result of the voting is as follows: 14 in favour, one against and no abstentions. The draft resolution has not been adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council.

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting on the draft resolution.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): It is most unfortunate that the Security Council could not reach agreement on authorizing a military observer component to the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala, the Mission that we call MINUGUA. After 36 years of war, the Guatemalan people have the chance to fulfil their rich potential. The Guatemalan Government, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), the United Nations, the Friends of Guatemala and others have invested significant diplomatic and financial resources in bringing peace to Guatemala. We regret that one member of the Council was not able to give the larger interest of regional peace and security the priority it deserves.

Since democratic government was restored in Guatemala in 1985, the United States has supported a negotiated settlement of the conflict. We are proud to have served as a member of the Group of Friends since 1994, when the United Nations took over moderation of the negotiations. The international community has made peace in Guatemala a priority. The tireless efforts of the Government of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, together with the international community, have now come to fruition. On 29 December in Guatemala City, the Government of Guatemala and URNG ended their nation's long, bloody civil war, which

has cost more than 100,000 lives. The realization of a comprehensive peace in Guatemala is a tremendous achievement. It ends the last conflict in Central America and the longest-running armed conflict in the hemisphere.

The most immediate need in Guatemala is to demobilize 3,000 URNG guerrillas and help them return to civilian life. Unfortunately, this body failed to agree upon the Secretary-General's recommendation for the establishment of a military observer group to monitor that demobilization.

URNG and the Guatemalan Government agree on the need for a short demobilization period that will quickly get URNG fighters back into productive civilian life. The United States and the other Friends of Guatemala will continue to seek a means to that end.

The reconstruction of Guatemala's infrastructure and reconciliation in Guatemalan society will take time and substantial international support: financial and moral. Donors will meet in Brussels later this month to coordinate international assistance to Guatemala. The United States has already begun an ambitious post-war assistance programme that will provide millions of dollars in additional aid as part of a process to create a new, peaceful and prosperous Guatemala.

Despite this setback today, we remain determined that those who support peace in Guatemala will find a way to support the noble ends of the Guatemalan peace process.

Mr. Berrocal Soto (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): As this is the first time that my country is speaking as a member of the Security Council, I should like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir. Under your able leadership and guidance, we are in the best possible hands. That is my conclusion after having worked with you since 1 January. My delegation also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to you for your enormous diligence, which has made it possible for our informal consultations of recent days to conclude today and for the Security Council to pronounce itself — however regrettably — on the dispatch to Guatemala of a mission of military observers.

Our gratitude also goes to the Group of Friends of Guatemala and the Secretariat.

As a Central American country and brother of Guatemala, Costa Rica has embraced the enormous task undertaken by the Guatemalan people to achieve a firm and lasting peace. Ten years ago in Guatemala, we Central Americans took a firm decision to assume direction of a negotiating process that we ourselves had designed and agreed upon, which led to the end of fighting in our region, the achievement of peace, the consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights and the reconciliation of our peoples.

In Guatemala in 1987, the Presidents of Central America effectively endorsed a procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America, known as the Esquipulas II Agreement, which consolidated the fruits of the useful negotiations undertaken over three years through the mediation of the Contadora Group.

Based on Esquipulas II, Central America, with the active support and solidarity of the international community, carried through a broad political negotiation and dialogue, the achievements of which are now before us: War has ended in Nicaragua, El Salvador and, now, in Guatemala. In the five Central American countries, there are democratic Governments established through free and pluralistic electoral processes. Throughout the countries of the area, there is a broad pattern of respect for individual freedoms and the rule of law is the basis of political organization.

In this scenario developed by Central America, our Guatemalan brothers have carried out an important exercise of negotiation and national reconciliation that has brought peace, an end to a long-standing conflict of over 35 years and the establishment of a series of political, economic and social agreements aimed at transforming and modernizing Guatemala.

Guatemala has not only put an end to war; it has made significant strides towards establishing a broad-based, pluralistic, multiethnic society that respects human rights and whose fundamental aim, based on national reconciliation, is the achievement of progress, development, justice and equity for all its inhabitants, without exception.

It is a source of special satisfaction to my country that this noteworthy effort of the people of Guatemala has always enjoyed the valuable support of the international community, expressed, on the one hand, by the teamwork of the Group of Friends — made up of Colombia, France, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela — in the context of the negotiating process; and, on the other, by the United Nations, whose active

presence was essential in promoting a resolution of the conflict and fostering the conditions necessary to the return of refugees and displaced persons, the observance of human rights and development assistance, and as an expression of the political support necessary for the pursuance of peace negotiations through the active and successful mediation of the Secretariat.

For over 10 years, the United Nations has clearly and unyieldingly supported the peace efforts of Central America. Repeated resolutions of the General Assembly have established the necessary political backing and support for the tasks of development. Moreover, this Council, through its own competence established under the Charter, has given constant attention to the situation in Central America and responded promptly to the peacekeeping needs of the region, as evidenced by the operations of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America, the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala.

For all these reasons, my delegation deeply regrets that on this, Costa Rica's first opportunity to participate in the formal voting of the Security Council, and with regard to a situation that has nothing whatsoever to do with the peace process in Guatemala, one delegation has exercised its right of veto. We have thus lost an excellent opportunity for the United Nations to assume a leading and active role in that brotherly Central American country.

The exercise of this veto is doubly regrettable, given the clear and firm assertions of that delegation that it agrees with the objectives and has no objection whatever to the text of the draft resolution submitted to the Security Council by the Group of Friends, which enjoys the sponsorship of my country and several other member States.

The situation in which we find ourselves following the exercise of that veto is extremely damaging not to Guatemala or to Central America, but to the United Nations. The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca have faithfully carried out all that was agreed in and established by the peace accords. We are sure that, in the worst-case scenario, there will be friendly democratic countries ready to carry out the important functions that would have been entrusted to that mission of military observers, if the Government of Guatemala requests it of them. For the United Nations, however, this is the loss of an extraordinary opportunity to uphold the objectives of the Charter and to maintain its presence and influence on a peace process that, fortunately, is drawing to a close and with which not only Guatemala, but the entire Central American region, is closing the door on many years of war, death and destruction.

It is particularly painful for the delegation of Costa Rica to have to make this statement. My country has played an active and leading role in the Central American peace process. Without being involved in the armed conflicts that have torn our region over the past two decades, Costa Rica was actively committed to the negotiations that ultimately achieved peace and reconciliation in Nicaragua and El Salvador. We would have been happy today if, with our vote, the Security Council had unanimously approved the dispatch of that mission of military observers to Guatemala. We deeply regret that this has not been possible. The damage is to the United Nations.

The President: I thank the representative of Costa Rica for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Fedotov (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian):* The Russian Federation notes with great satisfaction that, after long years of armed conflict and instability, Central America has now embarked on a stage of consolidating peace processes and strengthening democratic institutions and economic recovery. It is one of the few regions of the world in recent times to achieve genuine and tangible progress in the settlement of internal conflicts. This has been possible largely because of the efforts of the international community, and above all of the United Nations.

The signing between the Government of Guatemala and the insurgent movement Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca on 29 December 1996 of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace was an important event, marking the culmination of a long-standing internal conflict in that country and the last hotbed of armed resistance in the Central American region. We are sure that the achievement of peace in Guatemala, after 36 years of civil war, will promote the strengthening of stability and security not only there, but throughout all Central America.

Russia, which has consistently advocated a firm political settlement in Guatemala, feels that the efforts of the international community should now be directed towards strengthening the peace process in that country.

For our part, we are prepared to help further in the interests of favourable external conditions for a successful completion of that process.

Highest commendations deservedly go to the activities of the United Nations mediation group in the negotiations between the Guatemalan parties. We would like to express to the members of that group our gratitude for their contribution to achieving peace in Guatemala.

Bearing in mind the requests addressed by the Guatemalan parties to the United Nations, the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the views of the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process, Russia supports the proposal to give to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), on a temporary basis, a group of 155 military observers for a three-month period, with a clearly defined one-time mandate.

In light of what I have said, the Russian delegation voted for that draft resolution. We regret that it was put to a vote with such haste, at a time when consultations on the issue could have been continued.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation has just voted against the draft resolution before us. This is not a situation we would have liked to see. It was caused entirely by the erroneous acts of the Government of Guatemala.

China has all along supported the peace process in Guatemala and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. We welcome and are gratified by the peace Agreement reached by the two parties in Guatemala, and sincerely hope that peace and stability will prevail in the country.

Regrettably, however, the Government of Guatemala has, for four consecutive years, unscrupulously supported activities aimed at splitting China at the United Nations, in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in disregard of repeated démarches of the Chinese Government. It was furthermore bent on inviting, in disregard of the solemn warnings of the Chinese Government, the authorities of Taiwan to the signing ceremony of the peace Agreement in Guatemala, thereby providing them with a venue for secessionist activities against China.

It is the unshirkable responsibility of all Member States to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Guatemala, by its own doing, has trampled upon the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Charter of the United Nations, contravened General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, interfered in its internal affairs and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people.

The Guatemalan authorities cannot expect to have the cooperation of China in the Security Council while taking actions to infringe upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. No country's peace process should be at the expense of another country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Despite the actions taken by the Government of Guatemala that harmed China's interests, we still made reasonable suggestions in a constructive and forward-looking approach in order to find a proper solution to the issue at hand. We hoped that the Government of Guatemala could take concrete actions to correct its mistakes. This fully shows China's sincerity. However, the Government of Guatemala turned a deaf ear to all this and clung to its erroneous position, thereby setting serious obstacles in the way of our support for the draft resolution. Undoubtedly, the Government of Guatemala should be held responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

I wish to reaffirm the principled position of China on the question of Taiwan. There is but one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the entire Chinese people. The question of Taiwan is a major question of principle that bears upon China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the cause of national reunification. It falls entirely within China's internal affairs and brooks no outside interference whatsoever. The Chinese Government has no room for compromise on this question. It is the unswerving determination of the Chinese Government to safeguard its State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Finally, I wish to point out that if the Government of Guatemala is indeed sincere, values its peace process and moves to remove the obstacles, the Chinese delegation may reconsider the authorization of the deployment of military observers in Guatemala by the Security Council.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 8.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3731

Security Council
Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3731st Meeting
Tuesday, 14 January 1997, 11.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1066 (1996) (S/1996/1075)

97-85022 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1066 (1996) (S/1996/1075)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Croatia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nobilo (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1066 (1996), document S/1996/1075.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/29, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1996/884, letter dated 28 October 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/1996/974, letter dated 25 November 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1997/29) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1093 (1997).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3732

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3732nd Meeting

Monday, 20 January 1997, 5 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Naranjo
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

Central America: efforts towards peace

Report of the Secretary-General (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2)

97-85040 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

Welcome to a Foreign Minister

The President: I should like, at the outset of the meeting, to acknowledge the presence at the Council table of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, His Excellency Mr. Fernando Naranjo. On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to him.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Central America: efforts towards peace

Report of the Secretary-General (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Guatemala, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Central America: efforts towards peace, documents S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/49, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1997/23, which contains the text of a letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of a letter of the same date from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Members of the Council have received photocopies of a letter dated 16 January 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the texts of two agreements pertaining to the Guatemala peace process, which were signed by the Peace Commission of the Government of Guatemala and the General Command of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca under the auspices of the United Nations in December 1996, which will be issued as document S/1997/51.

Members of the Council have also received photocopies of a letter dated 20 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the position paper of the Chinese Government on the authorization of the deployment of military observers in Guatemala by the Security Council, which will be issued as document S/1997/53.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

I call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, His Excellency Mr. Fernando Naranjo.

Mr. Naranjo (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Government of Costa Rica, in its capacity as spokesman and Secretary *pro tempore* of the Central American Presidential Summits, is profoundly pleased by the decision being taken today in the Security Council.

The signing of the peace agreements in Guatemala on 29 December 1996 was the culmination of a difficult peacemaking process in the region of more than a decade. It is with great joy that we in Central America are celebrating this historic event. There is peace in Nicaragua, there is peace in El Salvador, and now, after 36 years, Guatemala, our dear sister country, is also achieving peace.

Today Central America, in peace and freedom, and deeply committed to respect for human rights and for the environment, is preparing to meet the challenges of the future in the framework of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America. This unique experience unites the seven small countries of our isthmus more than ever.

All Central Americans are profoundly grateful to all members of the Council for the decision that is being taken this afternoon, which will make it possible for a United Nations contingent to verify compliance with the peace agreements in Guatemala. We are especially grateful to you, Mr. President, and to you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your endeavours to achieve a satisfactory agreement. We express our respect and appreciation to China for its support for this decision, which is crucial for the completion of the process of peacemaking and democratization in Central America. We again offer our appreciation and thanks to the countries of the Group of Friends of Guatemala, which have helped and cooperated so much in this process. And to the people and the Government of Guatemala in particular, we offer our sincerest congratulations.

The President: I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): We voted against the draft resolution on sending military observers to Guatemala when it was considered by the Council on 10 January 1997. We made it clear then that that was not a situation that we wanted to see. The causes of the situation were clearly set out in the statement that I made on that occasion, and I shall not repeat them here today.

The Chinese Government has consistently supported the peace process in Guatemala and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. We welcome and are gratified by the peace agreement reached by the two parties in Guatemala. We are in favour of the peace process in Guatemala, monitored by and under the auspices of the United Nations, and sincerely hope that peace and stability will prevail in the country. Therefore, we have always kept the door wide open to an appropriate solution of the issue and have hoped to find such a solution through consultations.

It is in this spirit of sincerity that we have had many rounds of fruitful consultations with Guatemala over the past 10 days. The two sides, guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and through a forward-looking, pragmatic approach, have finally found a solution acceptable to both sides, thereby removing the obstacles to China's support for the draft resolution before us. We view Guatemala's constructive move positively.

Here we wish to express our appreciation to the President and other members of the Council, the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process, the non-aligned and all other countries concerned about the Guatemalan peace process for their understanding and support.

We sincerely hope that the peace process in Guatemala will ultimately succeed, allowing Guatemala to enjoy true peace and stability, create an environment conducive to its future economic reconstruction and embark on the road of healthy development. We also hope that the basis for cooperation between China and Guatemala in the United Nations will thus be further strengthened, thereby creating favourable conditions for the future development of relations between our two countries.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to me.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1997/49.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1094 (1997).

The Secretary-General wishes to make a statement. I now call on him to do so.

The Secretary-General: I have been most gratified to learn that the obstacles that stood in the way of the Security Council's being able to authorize deployment of a group of United Nations military observers to verify compliance with the agreement on the definitive ceasefire in Guatemala have been overcome.

In recent weeks, the Secretariat has undertaken intensive consultations on this matter with the parties concerned and encouraged them to find the common ground that would allow passage of this resolution to go forward. I therefore welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the constructive approach demonstrated by the Member States most directly involved and the efforts of the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process in their support. The adoption by the Security Council of the resolution before it will allow for the effective verification of one of the most crucial elements of Guatemala's transition to peace and reconciliation.

The United Nations has been involved in the Guatemalan process since it was first asked to provide an observer to the peace talks in 1990. Since 1994 it has played a particularly active role, both through moderation of the peace negotiations and in the deployment of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala. The signing of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996 opens a new chapter in the United Nations responsibilities. As we prepare for the overall verification contemplated by the various accords, I am pleased to acknowledge the support of the Security Council and Member States at large for what we all hope will become recognized as one of the Organization's success stories.

The President: The representative of Guatemala has asked to speak, and I now call on him.

Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish simply to express briefly my delegation's satisfaction that this moment of historic importance for Guatemala has come under your presidency, Sir, and in the presence of the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica and the Secretary-General, and that the Security Council has fulfilled its weighty peacekeeping responsibilities so commendably and to the great benefit of my country.

I need not repeat the ideas put forward in the excellent statements in support of the draft resolution considered at the Council's first meeting of the year, but I should like once again to express our gratitude for them. I assure members that the considerations put forward in those statements are sufficient grounds for the great satisfaction felt at this moment by the people and the Government of Guatemala, as we see that the obstacles that made it impossible for the necessary measures to be taken to pursue the peace process with United Nations participation have been overcome.

Therefore, on behalf of my people and Government, I have the pleasure to convey our satisfaction and profound gratitude through you, Mr. President, to each and every member of the Security Council — and in particular to one whose understanding has earned our special thanks — as well as to the Secretariat and all the countries that have striven towards this moment, for the critical contribution that the Council has just made to the normalization of the living conditions and to the well-being of the long-suffering people of Guatemala, who deserve a better fate than that which the persistence of the sterile domestic conflict and its attendant suffering seemed to hold in store.

The President: There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3733

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3733rd Meeting
Tuesday, 28 January 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Berrocal Soto
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Lopes da Rosa
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Gnehm

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/1997/42)

97-85053 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/1997/42)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, document S/1997/42.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/79, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1997/41, which contains the text of a letter dated 17 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1997/79) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1095 (1997).

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council has noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of 20 January 1997 (S/1997/42) submitted in conformity with resolution 1068 (1996) of 30 July 1996.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. In this context, the Council asserts that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

"As the Security Council extends the mandate of UNIFIL for a further interim period on the basis of resolution 425 (1978), the Council again stresses the urgent need for the implementation of that resolution in all its aspects. It reiterates its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council commends the Lebanese Government for its successful effort to extend its authority in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL.

"The Security Council expresses its concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon, regrets the loss of civilian life, and urges all parties to exercise restraint.

"The Security Council takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff in this regard and commends UNIFIL's troops and troop-contributing countries for their sacrifices and commitment to the cause of international peace and security under difficult circumstances."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/1.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3734

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3734th Meeting

Wednesday, 29 January 1997, 3.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Berrocal Soto
	Egypt	Mr. Zahran
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991, from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/23306, S/23307, S/23308, S/23309 and S/23317)

97-85095 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991, from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/23306, S/23307, S/23308, S/23309 and S/23317)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1997/52, which contains the text of a letter dated 20 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of a letter dated 17 January 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

> "The Security Council notes with concern the letter of 17 January 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council, announcing that Libyan Arab Airways would resume international flights out of Libya immediately (S/1997/52). The Council considers the position expressed in the letter of 17 January 1997 to be incompatible with Security Council resolution 748 (1992). Resolution 748 (1992) does not prohibit overflights of Libyan territory. Paragraph 4 (a) of the resolution does, however, prohibit all international flights to and from Libya. The Security Council would consider any such flights to be a violation of the terms of resolution 748 (1992).
>
> "The Security Council takes note of the reports that a Libyan-registered aircraft, in apparent violation of resolution 748 (1992), flew from Tripoli, Libya to Accra, Ghana, on 21 January 1997, where it landed and later departed. The Council has requested the Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) to follow up this matter. The Council draws the attention of Member States to their obligations under resolution 748 (1992) in the event that Libyan-registered aircraft seek to land in their territory."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/2.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3735

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3735th Meeting

Thursday, 30 January 1997, 3.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Rana
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Wood

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/1997/47)

97-85106 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/1997/47)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Georgia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chkheidze (Georgia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, document S/1997/47.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/93, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the Members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1997/57, letter dated 21 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of the provisions of the final document of the December 1996 Lisbon Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe which pertain to the situation in Georgia; and S/1997/75, letter dated 24 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a copy of the letter dated 20 January 1997 from the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1997/93) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1096 (1997).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3:45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3736

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3736th Meeting

Thursday, 30 January 1997, 5.50 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Eguiguren
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Wood

Agenda

The situation in Angola

97-85112 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 5.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Angola

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Angola, in which she requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Coelho da Cruz (Angola) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the delay in the formation of a Government of National Unity and Reconciliation (GNUR) as a result of the failure of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to meet the timetable established by the Joint Commission in the context of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex).

"The Security Council also notes with concern the slow pace of implementation of the remaining military aspects of the peace process, in particular, the demobilization and integration of UNITA soldiers into the Angolan Armed Forces.

"The Security Council takes note of the conclusions of the meeting of the Joint Commission on 23 January 1997, according to which the Government of Angola and UNITA agreed to postpone the inauguration of the GNUR beyond 25 January 1997, UNITA agreed to ensure that all of its National Assembly deputies and the members of the future GNUR designated by UNITA be in Luanda on 12 February 1997, and the Government of Angola agreed to set a date for the inauguration of the GNUR immediately following the arrival of the UNITA deputies.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties to implement this agreement strictly and to form the GNUR without any linkages and without further delay. Failure to implement this agreement could jeopardize the peace process and lead the Security Council to consider appropriate measures, as indicated in relevant Security Council resolutions, against those responsible for the delays.

"The Security Council emphasizes that the ultimate responsibility for restoring peace rests with the Angolans themselves. The Council reminds UNITA and the Government of Angola that the international community can only provide assistance if progress is achieved in the peace process and that it will consider a United Nations presence in Angola after the expiration of the UNAVEM III mandate in this context.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the three observer countries for their efforts to assist the parties in Angola in advancing the peace process.

"The Security Council will continue to monitor closely the implementation of the Joint Commission agreement.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/3.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3737

Security Council
Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3737th Meeting
Friday, 31 January 1997, 1.20 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Owada	(Japan)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Ms. Incera
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Legal
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Skiba
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Letter dated 21 January 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/62)

97-85124 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 1.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Letter dated 21 January 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/62)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Croatia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nobilo (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them a letter dated 21 January 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, document S/1997/62.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1997/27, letter dated 13 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/1997/64, letter dated 22 January 1997 from the chargé d'affaires *a.i.* of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/1997/78, letter dated 27 January 1997 from the chargé d'affaires *a.i.* of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting the text of a letter dated 25 January 1997 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the letter of the Secretary-General of 21 January 1997 (S/1997/62) concerning development with respect to the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), and welcomes his evaluation.

"The Security Council welcomes the letter of 13 January 1997 (S/1997/27, annex) from the Government of Croatia on the completion of the peaceful reintegration of the region under the Transitional Administration, which guarantees the local Serb community representation and a voice at various levels of local, regional and national government, provides for a limited deferment of military service, and affirms the intention of the Government of Croatia to provide the local Serb population with the protection of their legal and civil rights under Croatian law. The Council calls upon the Government of Croatia to implement fully the commitments contained in that letter and the oral guarantees made by Croatian officials to UNTAES as specified in the letter of the Secretary-General of 21 January 1997 (S/1997/62).

"The Security Council also notes the letter of the local Serb Executive Council and Regional Assembly on this matter of 16 January 1997 (S/1997/64, annex).

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 15 August 1996 (S/PRST/1996/35) and again underlines the importance of the holding of elections, the organization of which is the responsibility of UNTAES, in accordance with the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (S/1995/951, annex) signed on 12 November 1995 (the Basic Agreement). The Council shares the view of the Transitional Administrator that the rights and guarantees outlined in the letter from the Government of Croatia, if fully implemented, constitute a solid basis for the holding of elections simultaneously with nationwide elections in Croatia, and offer substantial progress towards the completion of the process of peaceful reintegration of the region. In this context, the Council emphasizes that the holding and certification of

elections, upon a decision by the Transitional Administration, within the envisaged time-frame will only be possible if the Croatian authorities fulfil their obligations with respect to the completion of the issuance of citizenship and identity documents for all eligible voters and relevant technical documents, and provide all information as required by UNTAES for certification of the elections. The Council underlines the need for full cooperation by the local Serbs.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of confidence-building measures which could benefit residents of the region beyond the expiration of the mandate of UNTAES. In this regard, it encourages the Croatian authorities to maintain the present demilitarized status of the region.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of effectively implementing the rights of all residents in the region to equal treatment with respect to housing, access to reconstruction grants and loans, and to property compensation, as guaranteed by Croatian law. It reiterates the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their places of origin. It also reiterates the right of residents of a State to choose freely where they wish to live. The upholding of these principles is of vital importance for the stability of the region. In this connection, it strongly encourages the Government of Croatia to reaffirm its obligations under the provisions of the Croatian Constitution, Croatian law, and the Basic Agreement, to treat all its citizens equally regardless of their ethnicity.

"The Security Council stresses that the restoration of the multi-ethnic character of Eastern Slavonia is important to international efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region of former Yugoslavia as a whole. The Council encourages the Croatian Government to take such steps as are needed to promote goodwill, build confidence, and provide assurances of a safe, secure and stable environment to all people in the region. These steps should include full implementation of its Law on Amnesty, full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, improved cooperation with respect to local Serbs who wish to return to other areas of Croatia, full compliance with the Basic Agreement, and full cooperation with UNTAES and other international organizations. The Council welcomes the commitments by the Government of Croatia with regard to the establishment of a Joint Council of Municipalities, Council of the Serb ethnic community, and with respect to educational and cultural autonomy of the Serb population and other minorities in the region. The Council notes the reassurances of the Croatian authorities that applications for a second period of deferment of military service for local Serbs will be considered in a positive manner.

"The Security Council condemns the incident that occurred at Vukovar on 31 January 1997 and that resulted in the death of an UNTAES peacekeeper and injuries to other UNTAES personnel.

"The Security Council calls upon both sides to cooperate in good faith on the basis of the Basic Agreement. It also calls upon them to continue to cooperate with the Transitional Administrator and with UNTAES in order to ensure the success of the process of reintegration. It calls upon the international community to support fully this endeavour.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Transitional Administrator and his staff, and reaffirms its full support for them.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/4.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3738

Security Council
Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3738th Meeting
Friday, 7 February 1997, 4.10 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Mahugu	(Kenya)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Searle
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Owada
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Liden
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in the Great Lakes region

97-85135 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of February, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of January 1997. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Owada for the great diplomatic skill with and unfailing courtesy which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Zaire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Khabouji N'Zaji (Zaire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: S/1997/13 and S/1997/98, letters dated 6 January and 1 February 1997, respectively, from the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* of the Permanent Mission of Zaire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/1997/94, letter dated 29 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the text of the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe on the current situation in the Great Lakes region, held in Pretoria on 27 and 28 January 1997; S/1997/97, letter dated 30 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/1997/109, letter dated 4 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region, in particular Eastern Zaire, and at its humanitarian consequences on the refugees and inhabitants of the region. It calls for an end to the hostilities and the withdrawal of all external forces, including mercenaries.

"The Security Council also expresses its deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in the region and urges all parties to allow humanitarian agencies and organizations access to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need. It also demands that the parties ensure the safety of all refugees and displaced persons as well as the security and freedom of movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel. It underlines the obligation of all concerned to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zaire and other States in the Great Lakes region; and to the principle of the inviolability of borders. In this connection, the Council calls upon all the States in the region to refrain, in accordance with their obligations under the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of the African Unity, from any act, including cross-border incursions, which would threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any State and exacerbate the situation in the region, including endangering the refugees and displaced persons. It also calls upon these States to create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the crisis.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun, in the fulfilment of his mandate as set out in the letter of the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council dated 22 January 1997 (S/1997/73). It urges all parties in the region to cooperate fully with the mission of the Special Representative in the search for a peaceful settlement to the crisis and calls upon Member States to provide the Special Representative with all necessary support, including logistical support. It also encourages other facilitators and representatives of the regional organizations, including the European Union and the States concerned, to coordinate closely their efforts with those of the Special Representative.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of holding an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

"The Security Council welcomes all efforts, including those of the Organizations and States of the region, aimed at resolving the crisis and, in particular, the initiative of President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya and other Heads of State, and encourages them to continue their efforts.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/5.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3739

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3739th Meeting

Friday, 7 February 1997, 4.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mahugu	(Kenya)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Searle
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Owada
	Poland	Mr. Skiba
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Liden
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1997/56)

97-85141 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1997/56)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Tajikistan, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Alimov (Tajikistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Security Council have before them the progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan, document S/1997/56.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: S/1996/1065, letter dated 23 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning the situation in Tajikistan; S/1996/1070, letter dated 24 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the Agreement between the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition on the results of the meeting held in Moscow on 23 December 1996, and of the Protocol on the basic functions and powers of the Commission on National Reconciliation; S/1996/1071, letter dated 24 December 1996 from the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a joint statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on Tajikistan adopted at the talks in Tehran on 22 and 23 December 1996 between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; and S/1997/55, letter dated 17 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Protocol on refugees, signed in Tehran on 13 January 1997 by the heads of the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and of the United Tajik Opposition in the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan of 21 January 1997 (S/1997/56), submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1089 (1996) of 13 December 1996.

"The Security Council welcomes the signing in Moscow on 23 December 1996 by the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition of the Agreement (S/1996/1070, annex I), including the Protocol on the Commission on National Reconciliation (S/1996/1070, annex II), and notes the progress made in the inter-Tajik talks in Tehran, in particular the signing of the Protocol on refugees (S/1997/56, annex III). It believes that these agreements, provided they are carried out as written, represent a qualitative change for the better and give a new impetus to efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation. The Council urges the parties to honour and implement consistently and in good faith the agreements already reached, in particular in the course of negotiating future agreements. It also urges them to make further substantive progress at the next rounds of the inter-Tajik talks.

"The Security Council notes with satisfaction that the ceasefire has been generally observed by the parties since December 1996 and calls on them to maintain it scrupulously for the whole duration of

the inter-Tajik talks in accordance with their obligations and commitments.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and calls upon the parties to cooperate fully with him in continuing the inter-Tajik talks. The Security Council also commends the efforts of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) in fulfilling its mandate.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties to ensure the safety and the freedom of movement of the personnel of the United Nations, the collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other international personnel in Tajikistan.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the attacks on and kidnapping of international personnel, in particular UNMOT, UNHCR and ICRC, and others, and demands the immediate release of all those taken hostage. It stresses the inadmissibility of kidnapping and any other mistreatment of United Nations personnel and supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that the essential security requirements of UNMOT are met.

"In this context the Security Council expresses satisfaction at the efforts by and cooperation between UNMOT, the Russian Federation and the parties to resolve the hostage crisis.

"The Security Council considers it necessary for the United Nations to continue vigorous support for the political process in Tajikistan. It takes note of the request from the parties to UNMOT to extend the necessary assistance in the implementation of the Moscow Agreement and to cooperate closely with the Commission on National Reconciliation in its activities. The Council accepts the Secretary-General's recommendation not to change the nature and size of the United Nations presence in Tajikistan at this stage. It requests the Secretary-General to keep the situation under review and to submit in due course his recommendations with regard to the United Nations presence in Tajikistan in the light of the progress in implementation of the inter-Tajik agreements and bearing in mind the request for assistance by the parties contained in the Moscow Agreement and the tasks and functions that would be required to provide such assistance.

"The Security Council expresses deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Tajikistan and calls for continuing emergency relief, including assistance for the return of refugees, in the context of the implementation of the Protocol on refugees, and support to Tajikistan for rehabilitation, aimed at mitigation of the consequences of the war and reconstruction of its economy."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/6.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3740

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3740th Meeting

Friday, 14 February 1997, 1.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mahugu	(Kenya)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Abdel Aziz
	France	Mr. Thiebaud
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Gomersall
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 14 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/126)

97-85152 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 1.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 14 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/126)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which she requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Kalajdzisalihović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have received photocopies of a letter dated 14 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting a communication dated 14 February 1997 from the High Representative, enclosing the decision adopted in Rome today by the Arbitral Tribunal for the dispute over the inter-entity boundary in the Brcko area, which will be issued as document S/1997/126.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes the announcement of the decision on 14 February 1997 by the arbitral tribunal on the disputed portion of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line in the Brcko area, pursuant to Article V, Annex 2 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (collectively the Peace Agreement, S/1995/999, annex).

"The Security Council reminds the parties to Annex 2 to the Peace Agreement of their obligation to be bound by the decision of the arbitral tribunal and to implement the decision without delay. The Council underscores the importance of prompt and full cooperation by the parties to the Peace Agreement in carrying out their commitments to implement the Peace Agreement in its entirety."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/7.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3741

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3741st Meeting

Tuesday, 18 February 1997, 7.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mahugu	(Kenya)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Thiebaud
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Liden
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Richardson

Agenda

The situation in the Great Lakes region

Letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/136)

97-85159 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 7.35 p.m.

Expression of welcome to the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

The President: I should like at the outset of the meeting to extend, on behalf of the Council, a warm welcome to the new Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, His Excellency Ambassador Bill Richardson. We look forward to cooperating with him in the Council's work.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

Letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/136)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Zaire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji (Zaire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, document S/1997/136.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1997/137, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

Members of the Council have received photocopies of a letter dated 16 February 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* of the Permanent Mission of Zaire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, which will be issued as document S/1997/138.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1997/137) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1097 (1997).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.